THE APPRAISER'S DEPARTMENT.

Assessment on Goods Its Chief Functions.

\$1,766,138 64 Saved to the Government in One Year by Raised Valuations.

WHAT MAKES MARKET VALUE.

Involves Made Out in Every Civilized Tongue-The Classification of Imports-What the Several Divisions Have To Do-Where Our Ladies Obtain Their Tresses-The Enermous Business Transacted-New Additions To Be Made to the Buildings.

We have from time to time published a series of articles on the various departments connected with the collection of customs at this port, giving te details of the several branches.

which never lie, the items became solid facts which invested the intelligence thus imparted with the motic a store of information which heretofore they lid not possess. Considering that four-sixths of the come through the Collector of this Port, it is not to be wondered at that it takes a small army of cers to collect the same. Yet, with all the cir cumicention and vexatious restrictions consequent

A MIXED TARIFF OF UNCERTAIN TENOR, the herculean labor of accomplishing such great re-sults with comparatively only one half of the required force, the work of collection is admirably erformed and reflects the greatest credit upor the chief officers of the Customs Department.

The practical and scientific branch (the head of which may properly be termed the Assessor of the government) connected with collecting the rev-

THE APPRAISER'S DEPARTMENT. enided over by Mr. William A. Darling, late mem ber of Congress from the Ninth district of this city, and a gentleman well and favorably known as President of our Third Avenue Railroad, before the present incumbent, and a business man of great ability. While the Appraiser virtually acts by erder of the Collecter on invoices sent to him for appraisement, yet he is in a great measure inde-APPOINTMENTS OF EMPLOYES

in his office are concerned, and which are made on the Appraiser's recommendation by the Secretary of the Treasury. The Appraiser's Department has

THE EXPOUNDING OF REVENUE LAW as far as it applies to assessment of duties and imposts, and all appeal cases are decided by the Secretary of the Treasury on reports made by this department. Colonel John B. Frothingham, law officer and private secretary to Mr. Darling, who conducts the correspondence, made within seven-teen months past over nine hundred reports, averaging three pages of foolscap paper, on appeal cases and other subjects. These are only the official reports going to the department, while correspondence with merchants and others is even greater than the former. The beginning of the work in the Appraiser's Office is at THE INVOICE BUREAU,

which is in charge of Mr. Adolph C. Rau, a gentleman well versed in the business and for a long time in the government employ. The invoices of oods are sent from the Custom House for examination, either "warehouse entries" or "duty paid." As a usual thing the Collector orders the required number of cases (the established rule is one out of ten) for appraisement, under a penal bond, which signifies that if the said case does not correspond with the invoice the importer can be called upon in the event of failure, forfeit the security. The invoice is examined according to the quality of the proots, and alter being transcribed on a blotter is sent to the division to which it belongs and receipted for by the Assistant Appraiser in charge. The invoices are indexed regularly. On the first of each month they

COMMENCE WITH NUMBER ONE,
and usually embrace from fifteen to twenty thousand at the close thereof. The following list, composing one year's transactions, will convey an idea of the magnitude of the business transacted here, showing how many invoices for appraisement

App	voices and praisement	Received in Public	vanced over Entered
1871.	Orders.	Store.	Rates.
Beptember	18,760	21,260	\$138,772
October	16,982	17,068	135,809
November	15,402	15,921	99,197
December		14,934	104,018
January	15.993	17.457	130,839
Pebruary		19,046	138,692
March	17.191	17,783	181,927
April	20,888	22,587	229,501
May	18,062	18,203	222,305
June	14,806	14,529	128,670
July		15,234	118,361
August		22,527	137,992
Totals201,303		216,549	\$1,766,138

Totals.......201,303

THE ADVANCED RATES OF DUTY
are imposed upon goods which may be undervalued
by the importer, or to make "market value." The
importer very often purchases stock below regular
prices, which is invoiced accordingly. In order to
escape penalties which the law imposes he raises
the cost thereof, and pays his duties in comformity
with the advance. This is the market value. Should
goods, however, on being examined, be found to
be undervalued ten per cent, then

THE APPRAISER INFOSES A PENALTY
besides the additional tax. Any undervaluation
below that sum is not subject to a fine. If the importer is dissatisfied with the Appraiser's decision
the matter is referred to two arbitrators, one on the
part of the Appraiser and another appointed by the
merchant. If both fail to agree the Collector of
the Port decides the subject finally, unless the
matter is taken to the Treasury Department on appeal or to the courts on suit.

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AFFER GOODS ARE EXAMINED,
the prices compared with the invoices, the latter are returned to the Chief Clerk of the Entry Department, and, if found correct, the merchandise is delivered to the importer and the invoices sent to the Liquidating Department at the Custom House, where the most minute comparisons are made. A large book is kept here in which is entered a record of advanced rates on imports, from which the total for any day in the year may be ascertained at a glance. Besides this, there are kept the "Correct Book," the "incorrect Book" and the "Warehouse Book." The entire business as conducted by

and the "Warehouse Book." The entire business so conducted by

A SYSTEM OF CHECKS,
which makes it an impossibility for any errors to occur. Should goods arrive at this port and the importer have no invoice, the Collector calls for an appraisement, upon which a report is at once made. If the value of the goods is under \$100 the Appraiser has power to pass the wares. If this amount is exceeded the Collector must decide the question. The merchant, as a matter of course, gives bonds to produce the original invoice within a given limit of time. Attached to the office of the chief entry clerk are eight assistant clerks and two messengers, all of whom are constantly kept busy with important duties. Invoices come to this department in

with important duties. Invoices come to this department in

and in every known currency, weight and measure. A practical education is necessarily required to reduce the latter to the American standard and at the same time do justice to the importer as well as to the government. No less difficult is it to appraise the worth of goods coming from remote parts, and compare the prices with the ruling rates of this country, than it is to estimate the money value thereon. To do all this the appraiser has his proper officials, and it is only a wonder that he can retain so much real talent at the beggarly salary paid them by the government.

THE VARIOUS DIVISIONS

to which are assigned Assistant Appraisers number tea. Each one has different qualities of goods to examine and appraise. It is singular to note the incongruity in the classification of merchandise assigned to one division, which makes the labor very difficult for the examiners. They are required to have a thorough knowledge not only of one article but of all fabrics coming under their notice. The following statements will give a full idea of the CLASS OF GOODS COMING UP FOR APPRAISEMENT.

In the Pirst Division, under charge of Mr. Albert Glibert, the assignments consist of cigars, cigarettes, sound, tobacco, informal appraisements, personal effects, sample office packages, seizures, express packages and steamer examinations. This is likewise called the "damage division," which examines all goods on which allowance is claimed for damages on the voyage of importation. Mr.

Glibert has ten assistants, each of whom is highly practical in various branches.

practical in various branches.

THE SECOND DIVISIOM,
over which presides Oblone! James Burt, has the
examination and appraisement of antiquities,
bronzes, clocks, coniectionery, epanlets, fancy
goods of every description, small and fancy manufactures of alabaster, glass, marble, porcelain and
spar, fancy boxes, gold beaters' skin, gold and
sliver galloon, gold and sliver ware, jewelry of all
kinds, lithographic stones, mosales, musical instruments, opticals, optical, philosophical and
photographic apparatus, precious stones, regalias,
toys, watches, watch materials, watchmakers'
tools, glucose, honey, melado, molasses, sugar.

THE EXAMINATION OF SILES
and fabrics consisting of parts of silk and other
material come under Assistant Appraiser Thomas
W. Gibson. The mode of ascertaining the component parts of silk and cotton in mixed goods is
critical and of great importance to the merchant.
The nature of the goods determines the rate of
duty. On silks the tairlis from fifty to sixty per
cent: besides, on British goods the invoices cannot
be relied upon, as the oath accompanying the same
from many manufacturers is wholly unreliable. In
England perjury is not a felony. A sworn-to manifest is only a declaration or affirmation. To properly come at the component parts of silk and cotton
the Assistant Appraiser cuts a small square part
from the article under examination. This he unravels into threads, separating the silk from the
baser material.

A GOLD SCALE, OF MINT STANDARD,
which balances to a shadow, is used to weigh the
silk and cotton. If the former predominates the
higher duty is exacted; if otherwise, then the importer pays the lower tariff. Poplins give the
greatest trouble to examine. If cotton is of such
nine fibrons texture as to appear like silk from the
baser made by burning the thread. Silk only
gilmmers; cotton burns. This hint should prove
valuable to the shopping community. Besides the
above, this division examines and appraises buitons of every description, ladies' wearing apparel
made

made to order, raw, tram and organzine, and all manufactures of silk; trimmings.

of which Mr. Lawrence W. Moore is Assistant Appraiser, has charge of the examination of bagging, baskets, cotton, gutta percha and india rubber cioth and w bbing, manufactures of cotton, dax, grass, hemp, juth, or of which either of these articles shail be a component of chief value, except carpets, carpet ag, mats, matting and olicioth; rope and cordage, thread of linen or cotton, twine, willow ware,

WORSTED GOODS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, bunting, busks, corsets, feathers, crude and ornamental; dowers, artificial or natural, dyed and dried; gloves, hair braids, hats, hosiery, knit goods, millinery goods, parasols, straw braids and

bunting, busks, corsets, feathers, crude and ornamental; flowers, artificial or natural, dyed and dried; gloves, hair braids, hats, hosiery, knit goods, millinery goods, parasols, straw braids and umbreilas are assigned for examination and appraisement to the Fifth Division, of which Mr. Clarence W. Meade is Assistant Appraiser.

THE MOST IMPORTANT division is the Sixth, in charge of Mr. John A. Baush, who is likewise Special Deputy Appraiser, and has held office in that branch for upwards of thirty years. Mr. Baush is considered one of the best judges of wool and furs in the country. The articles belonging to this division consist of coir, esparte and Sisal grass, fibre, flax, flocks, hair of all kinds, hemp, istle, jute, shoudy, wool, and all materials which enter into or form a component part of texile fabrics, except cotton and silk, bristles, canes, unmanufactures of fur, mats, matting, olicloth, palm leaf, rattan, whalebone, whalebone for stretchers, woollen cloth, woollen yaru and all manufactures of wool.

HUMAN HAIR AS A LEADING IMPORT must sound rather harah, and speaks volumes for our extravagance. Yet this article brings a very heavy revenue to the government. The duties on hair are twenty per cent on raw, thirty per cent on the rath and forty per cent on manufactured. The circular of Leon Pelleray, of Paris, is taken as the standard scale of prices by which to estimate values of other manufactures. Within three years this article, owing to its searcity and full demand, has increased in value thirty per cent.

THE SEVENTH DIVISION, in charge of Mr. William S. Headley, is very extensive, and has cognizance of the fellowing merchandise:—Anatomical preparations, apothecaries' glassware, asbestos, asphaltum, bituminous substances hymatome excelements and head of the proper strenges when the presence of the supplications and the presence of the supplications and the proper supplications appeared whells.

in charge of Mr. William's. Headley, is very extensive, and has cognizance of the fellowing merchandise:—Anatomical preparations, apothecaries' glassware, asbestos, asphaitum, bituminous substances, brimstone, cardamom seeds, chalk, chemicals, clay, corks, cork tree bark, dextrine, drugs, dye stuffs, earths, extracts, gelatine, gums, gypsum, isingiass, leeches, lemon juice and peel, lime, medicines, mustard seed, paints, perfumery, plaster of Paris, printing ink, pumice stone, quicksilver, resmous substances, saltpetre, soap for toflet, specimens of betany and natural history, sponge, spuak, squills, surgical instruments, varnishes, wax, bee's and vegetable; water colors, moist.

Living Animals Subject To Dury, and boots and shoes of leather, brick, building material, burrstones, carriages, casks, coal, crockery, drain pipe, earthenware, felt for roofing and sheathing, glass, glassware, grindstones, guano, gutts perchs (unmanufactured), hides, hide cuttings, hoofs, horns, ice, India rubber (unmanufactured), viory, vvory nuts, junk, laths, leather, lumber, mother of pearl, oakum, paper stock, Parian and porcelain ware, polishing stones, rags, shells, skins (not furs), sizte, spars, spiling, stone for building, stone monuments, tiles, venecring, wood (cabinet and dye), come under the jurisdiction of the Eighth division, of which Mr. David B. Melitsh, an old and capable member of the press, is Assistant Appraiser in charge.

THE NINTH DIVISION

Is administered by General James F. Hall, Assistant Appraiser, to whose care is committed a most important branch of imports, consisting of bronze powders, coach hardware, cutlery, Dutch metal, emery, gold and silver lesf, hardware, harness, iron and manufactures of iron, machinery, metals, mica, minerals, needles, ores, pen tips and holders, pins, anddery, steel and manufactures of steel, steel, beverages, blacking, books, cocos, cordials, ele, beverages, blacking, books, cocos, cordials, and capable and percent and cocos, and cocos, cordials, ele, beverages, blacking, boo

pens.

ARTISTS' MATERIALS, PAINTINGS,
ale, beverages, blacking, books, cocoa, cordials,
fireworks, food, fruits, grain, grease, groceries, except molasses and sugar; gunpowder, hops, mait,
mineral waters, nuts, not drugs; oils, except
essential and medicinal; paper, plants,
porter, printed matter, seeds, sealing wax,
soap, not tollet; soap stock, sopaline,
spirituous liquors, stationery, statuary, types

porter, printed matter, seeds, sealing wax, soap, not tollet; soap stock, sopaline, spirituous liquors, stationery, statuary, types, vanilla beans, wafers, wines, works of art, are examined by the Tenth division, in charge of Mr. David C. Sturges, Assistant Appraiser, and is a very important adjunct of Mr. Darling's department. Before the duty was taken of coffee and tea these articles were appraised by this division. No less important is the examination of imported liquors, likewise belonging here, which requires a very able judgment and discrimination. The specific duty on this article is \$2 per proof gallon.

AN ENORMOUS BUSINESS is done by the appraisers, as must be admitted after perusing the above facts. It is no more than just to state that under the able administration of Mr. Darling the ponderous machinery of his department operates like clock work. A capable officer is never removed, although the utmost political pressure is constantly brought to bear on him, to make a place for some aspiring office-holder. The only removals or appointments made are of openers and packers, who need not necessarily be experts.

THE SCARGITY OF ROOM in the appraisers' stores is as much bewailed as it is in the Custom House. But "arrangements are now on foot by which more space will be added to the former, as also to the public store. Mr. Mailet, Architect of the Treasury Department, has recently been in this city, and with his assistant perfected specifications by which two buildings on Greenwich and one on New Church street are to be added to increase at the rate of the past five years the government will be compelled to erect a new Custom House, appraisers' and public stores, and erry of this city.

ORPHANS' CHARITY BALL.

From the extensive preparations which have been already made and are still progressing, the ball, which is to take place in the Academy of Music on the 22d of January, 1873, promises to eclipse all previous efforts of the "Young Men's Association." The interior of the building will be handsomely decorated for the occasion, and two full bands will supply the music during the evening. The accommodations of the supper room are to be of the most ample character, and nothing will be left undone by the various committees to promote the pleasure and comfort of the company. The marked success which has hitherto attended these balls is a gratitying evidence of the popular nature of the deserving and truly noble charity which they are intended to assist. The gentlemen of the association, which is composed of representatives
of nearly every profession and branch
of business in the city, have, by their
zealous and well directed efforts, added largely to
the means of the institutions to the benefit of
which the proceeds are to be devoted. The tickets
are \$5 each, and can be obtained from the committee and the honorary members of the association,
of which the following gentlemen have been
elected officers:—President, Jeremiah Quinian;
Vice Presidents, Charies O'Comor and William J.
Kane; Treasurer, P. Malone; Financial Secretary, S.
John T. McGowan; Corresponding Secretary, S.
H. Murphy. When it is remembered that the proceeds of the annual bail form a large portion of
the revenue of the Cataolic Orphan asylums the
importance of the affair as a matter of charity will
be at once appreciated. In these asylumps nearly
two thousand children are supported, and the city
is thus relieved of an expense which would otherwise be incurred for the maintenance of the helpless and houseless little ones who are carefully provided for within the walls of those institutions. to assist. The gentlemen of the associa-

SERIOUS EMBANKMENT ACCIDENT.

Yesterday forencen, white a gang of laborers were working at an embankment on Thirteenth avenue, between High and Howard streets, way, bearing beneath it one of the men, named Michael Behan, of West Newark. It was at first supposed that he was killed, but on being dug out it was found that though bit head was terribly cut, his leg broken and body crushed, his injuries were not likely to prove fatal. He was removed to the hospital. Seven other workmen narrowly escaped similar injury. Newark, an immense mass of earth suddenly gave

Sham Wooden Structures That Have Recently Been Erected in New York, Under the Eye of the Superintendent of Buildings.

The Thin Iron Disguises of Splendid Tinder Boxes.

Insurance Men Condemn Them Unreservedly.

Horrible, when viewed upon the most vivid and most appalling side, have been those disasters of fire which, since the laying of Chicago in ashes, have come, one after another, upon the public with startling and terribie ruin. But as there is without its sweet. The bright side of the picture is the fact now presented that there is aroused a is the fact now presented that there is a reduced reform in the architecture of cities, so that the principles of humanity will take precedence in the consideration of the builders to those of artistic estentation. Our most pretentious structures will be found as a rule to be less thoroughly fireproof than many fact, very carefully erected with reference to the greatest safety for human life and for property.

THE LATE PIPTH AVENUE PIRE has again very recently made only too palpable this by no means flattering fact.

In a recent interview with Mr. Macgregor, the chief of the inspection of buildings in New York, he was reported to have declared that he had no power to dictate in what manner a building should be erected. Yesterday a representative of the HERALD called upon Mr. Macgregor again and opened the conversation by calling his attention to the alleged saying of his above referred to.

"The printed words are slightly incorrect perhaps, through an error of expression or through a repeated them. I really said that I had no power to dictate an alteration of a structure which had been erected before the passage of the law creating my authority unless enforced by a special act. In the building law of 1871, section 31, there is the

THE POWERS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILD-"The Department of Buildings named under this

act shall have full power in passing upon any question or materials to be used in the erection, altera tion or repair of any building in the city of New York,

"And you interpret this as an enactment only an plying to buildings erected subsequent to its pas "Yes. 1 do."

"Supposing, then, that such is the case, why

"Supposing, then, that such is the case, why were not the fire escapes provided for by special act placed upon the Fifth Avenue Hotel over the interior court yard?"
"I do not think that any more lives would have been saved than were, if those escapes were there. In my belief the girls were smothered while in their beds askeep—at least the greater number of those who were killed were smothered. If they had had the strength to escape why did they not do so through the hall and down by the other stairway?"

SHAM STRUCTURES.

"Does not your power over the manner of construction of all new buildings enable you to be the judge of what constitutes proof against fire and what does not?"

"Yes, sir."

"I understand, sir, that there have been erected quite recently in several parts of the city buildings of both a novel and a dangerous character, as if specially devised as food for the revels of the fire flend after he should become wearied with attacking rotten tenements?"

"There are several wooden buildings in various ing rotten tenements?"
'There are several wooden buildings in various parts of the city that were built before the present law against their erection came into vogne."

Iaw against their erection came into vogne."

IRON COVERED TINDER BOXES.

"But are there not some structures built of wood, covered with iron, and claimed to be fireproof, that were recently completed?"

"There are two such buildings—one in Centre street—No. 42, I believe. It belongs to Messrs. Noyce & Wines. This building has walls of wood, but they are sheated on both sides with iron. Its exterior presents an appearance of great solidity, massiveness and strength."

"What do you think of such a method of architecture?"

"I do not approve of it myself. I do not think it a style of building which ought to be encouraged."

"Why then do you permit it to be practised?"

"Well, I think that the walls are as nearly fire-proof as an ordinary iron building, as they are protected on both sides."

IRON AS A CONDUCTOR OF HEAT.

"Will not this iron sheeting communicate more

"Will not this iron sheeting communicate more speedily any heat caused by a fire in the interior of the building to the centre of the walls than if they were built of brick?"

"Wood in that position withstands the heat very well. Besides, the plastering is agreat protection, as it is in dead floors. It takes a long time for the flames to work their way up through the ceiling. Insurance men who have inspected these structures accept risks upon them just as readily as they do on others with walls entirely of iron."

"Are there not other buildings of this sort in the city recently finished?"

"There is one at the corner of Worth and Centre streets; but it is merely a low, temporary structure, built by the trustees of an estate whose heirs are yet minors.

HEPWORTH'S NEW CHURCH is also constructed in this manner, but the walls are of brick, covered both outside and inside with iron. Dr. Scudder's iron temple, in Brooklyn, is a frame structure, with walls protected by corrugated iron. When the plans were first drawn for this I disapproved it, and also when I went over to see it while in course of erection I remarked upon its faulty architecture, but my opinion was not consulted.

"But your opinion was consulted in the case of

suited."

WHEN HIS OFINION WAS CONSULTED.

"But your opinion was consulted in the case of similar buildings in New York, was it not?"

"Yes; but those are considered by the insurance men to be perfectly safe. And what a terrible opposition I should meet with if I should suddenly begin to fight the architects and owners of these structures!"

The interview was much longer than the portion given above, and ar. Macgregor uttered many very eriginal suggestions about his department, which, however, he declares it would be a herculean task to put in practice. Mr. Macgregor also reviewed his course since he was appointed Superintendent of Buildings, and said in conclusion, after dwelling on the ills and vexations of office for a length of time, that he would have had peace long ago it Mayor Hail had only seen fit to accept his resignation.

Inquiries Among the Insurance Men. Subsequently the reporter went down in the in-surance region of Broadway and made inquiries among the learned ones in risks and valuations. The Surveyor of the Underwriters' Association was first visited at the office, near Cedar street. Mr. Kingsland volunteered whatever information he could impart with the utmost courtesy. He was

first asked:"What do you think of the corrugated iron buildings recently erected in the city so far as concerns their fireproof qualities ?"

"I think very little of them, indeed. They never did meet with my favor. I condemned them from

"For what reason do you condemn them! "Because they are far less proof against fire than almost any other kind of building to be found in the city, excepting, perhaps, those which are entirely of wood.'

HEPWORTH'S NEW CHURCH.

"Are there many now in course of construction?" "I know only two or three. There is Hepworth's new church at the corner of Forty-fifth street and Lexington avenue, which is partly of brick, partly of wood and partly of Iron. The interior of the front wall is built of brick, while the other walls are framed with wooden timbers. All the walls are finished with plates of corrugated iron, both or are finished with plates of corrugated iron, both on the outside and inside. The building 42 Centre street, however, is only sheeted with iron on the exterior, the timbers of the frame being bare inside. This style of architecture is being used to the greatest extent in the erection of churches. In Brooklyn Dr. Scudder's 'iron temple,' as it is called, is an example, and also Taimage's Tabernacle. The former is nothing more than a slight frame covered with corrugated sheets of metal."

"In the case of a fire what chance do you think there would be for these structures to withstand the flames?"

"Very little chance, indeed. The heat would be communicated immediately to the wood, and THE WALLS WOULD GO.

If there was a fire on the opposite side of a street

to that upon which one of these buildings stood the flames, when they became to any degree in-tense, would heat the iron plates until they were red, and then the wood would ignite and burn." "Do you remember any instance in which a building of this character has been consumed by fre?"

"I do. There was one not more than four months ago—a large slaughter house at the corner of Pirst avenue and Forty-lith street. It went like a kindlingwood box covered with tin. The plates of

on both sides and the walls vanished like magic. That is just the way I expect those big churches in Brooklyn and that of Hepworth also will go."

"Are these buildings insured at the same rates as ordinary brick fireproof buildings?"

"Well, the subject is now under investigation by myself, and after I make my report the Board are to fix the rates which, in future, will be charged for insurance on these buildings. It is only recently that our attention has been specially called to them. They will, however, be much higher than those on brick buildings."

The interview was here ended and the reporter

them. They will, however, be much higher than those on brick buildings."

The interview was here ended, and the reporter then called upon Mr. Dayton, the Surveyor of the American Fire Insurance Company, who, like several other gentlemen in the insurance business whom he had already met, CONDEMNED UNRESERVEDLY THE CORRUGATED IRON EUILDINGS, as being unsafe and incapable of resisting the attacks of fire. From another source, the designation of which is reserved by request, he learned that the rates to be established by the Board of Underwriters on buildings constructed of corrugated iron would undoubtedly be as high as forty or fifty per cent above that charged on ordinary fireproof structures. This rather plainly indicates the opinions entertained by capitalists of the style of architecture which Superintendant Macgregor has permitted to come into vogue, although he says that he does not approve of it.

OBITUARY.

Justus Lawrence.

Justus Lawrence, a popular and much esteemed citizen, died at his residence, in Yonkers, N. Y., yesterday morning. He was taken from life suddenly. Mr. Lawrence was President of the Continental Life Insurance Company, and during many years past a most active business man, and held a first place in the commercial community and social circle.

Ambrose R. Wright.

By telegram from Augusta, Ga., under date of yesterday, we were informed last night of the occurrence of the death of General Ambrose Ranson Wright, one of the editors of the Chronicle and Sentinet newspaper and member elect to Congress from the Eighth district of Georgia. General Wright expired at his residence, in

Augusta, at an early nour in the forenoon. He was carried off by general debility, resulting from an carried off by general debility, resulting from an attack of nervous fever, which endured upon him, with more or less severity, during a period of three weeks. He was an exceedingly popular man, and to some extent, a representative Georgian, of rare abilities. His death causes very profound grief and is mourned throughout the State as a public calamity, for the reason that he was distinguished alike by his military record, his legal attainments, political ability and fine social amenities. General Wright was forty-seven years of age.

Robert Macpherson.

Foreign society in Rome, particularly the memers of the Scotch representation in the Holy City, has just lately lost, by death, one of its most genia; be called the father of photography in the Italian capital. Robert Macpherson was born in Edinburgh in 1816. While still a lad he went with his parents to Canada, whence he returned at the age of seventeen to study medicine in his native town. As a medical student he was the friend and companion of Edward Forbes, John Goodsir, George Bell (nephew of Sir Charles), William Edmondstoune Aytoun and others of that brilliant Burchenschaft, while he was a constant and welcome visitor at the houses of George Combe and the members of the houses of George Combe and the members of the Siddons family, then residing in Edinburgh. His health gave way before the completion of his studies, and he had to renounce the career of an army surgeon in India for the hardly less congenial one of that of a painter in Rome. Thither he went in 1840, and labored assiduously with palette and brush until he had acquired considerable proficiency in his art, particularly in portraiture. An ophthalmic affection—the sequeda of an epidemic prevailing in Rome in 1852—so impaired his eyesight in that year that he seemed again on the point of abandoning his profession, when the accidental arrival of an old Edinburgh collegian, Dr. Clark (late of Capri), gave him a fresh start in his artistic career. The Doctor had come to Rome with a camera and lenses and all the apparatus of the then novel and fascinating art of photography. Ma: pherson, single-handed overcame all the difficulties with which photography was at that time beset; and perceiving its value in a place so rich in antiquarian and art treasures as Rome, applied it to the reproduction of the various objects of interest around him. He produced the largest photographs them known of the ruins and relies of the Eternal City. Besides his fame as a photographer, he enjoyed considerable reputation as an art critic and a riched of artists and men of letters. He was the discoverer in 1845 of the Iamous picture by Michael Angelo, purchased by the British National Gallery, and was also the collector and distributor of many curious and valuable old paintings, whose merits he was the first to perceive. The intimate of Thackeray and Father Prout, the life and soul of many a genial gathering of brother artists and authors, to which every well accredited visitor was always welcome, his death is deplored by the constant resident in Rome and by the stranger within her gates. His Siddons family, then residing in Edinburgh. His every wen accredited visitor was always welcome, his death is deplored by the constant resident in Rome and by the stranger within her gates. His literary capacity appeared to more than ordinary advantage in his letters contributed in succession to Father Prout, some live and twenty years ago, while his occasional communications to the Athenaeum, and his criticisms and lectures on the treasures of the Vatican, always commanded and rewarded attention. A finer or more typical specimen of the "kindly Scot!" it was seldom his countrymen's pleasure to find in a European capital, and men of all sorts and conditions from both sides of the Atlantic were among the mourners when, after a painful illness, Robert Macpherson's remains were borne to the grave.

The Australian mail from Melbourne brings news of the deliberate suicide, by shooting, of John De Haga, a well-known basso, who was formerly attached to opera companies in America and the British Australasian colony. Prior to his arrival in Australia Mr. De Haga had a very chequered career. His travels had been extensive both in Europe and America, and he first studied the art which he subsequently adopted as a profession in Italy. He was well connected and moved in good circles both in London and Paris, but a disposition for roving seems to have led him to America, where he soon joined the Nevada fillbusters and became captain of that body. This was in the feverish a captain of that body. This was in the feverish gold and silver days of that territory, and Mr. De Haga, like everyone else, speculated before starting on the filibustering expedition. On this expedition he received a severe wound, which confined him to the hospital for some time. While there his mining speculations turned out trumps, and in a very short space of time he became worth something like one hundred thousand dollars. Fortune was fickle, however, and Mr. De Haga, failing to sell out at the right time, found that he could only secure some three thousand dollars out of what had been a very considerable fortune. With that remnant he went to California, and lived in San Francisco for about a couple of years, during which time he experienced some vicissitudes, and could tell some very amusing stories of this period of his like. From California he went to Melbourne. Mr. De Haga has been before the Melbourne public for some eight or nine years as a musician of large ability, although his voice latterly has failed very considerably, and his recent public performances have been anything but satisfactery either to himself or to his audiences. Still his skill, as a "coach" was well known and availed of by the profession, and his services in this line ware in frequent requisition. It is known that for kome time past Mr. De Haga was embarrassed by pecuniary obligations and impecuniosity, but even his best friends were not aware that matters were so desperate with him. He had been in a very desponding condition for some time, and only a few days before his death spoke to a friend on the subject of his troubles, observing that he would as soon put a builet through his head as continue to live on with such a weight of debt hanging over him and no prospect of lasting employment.

M. Janet-Lange. gold and silver days of that territory, and Mr. De

M. Janet-Lange. The French journals announce the death of M. Janet-Lauge, historical painter, in his eightyseventh year. He was a pupil of Collin, Ingres and Horace Vernet. Many remarkable works of this artist are to be seen in the museums and public monuments of the departments of France.

SARATOGANS PROTESTING AGAINST COCK FIGHTING.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Dec. 21, 1872. An indignation meeting of citizens was held here last night, in the rooms of the Young Mens' Christian Association, to protest against the holding of the great cock fight, New York city versus Troy, advertised to come off in this village. Resolutions were adopted and a protest put in circulation, which is to-day being signed by hundreds of our citizens. Legal steps have also been taken to discover the parties engaged in the match, and Mr. Bergh, of New York, has been telegraphed to concerning the matter. The match will probably not come off here.

OUR NAVAL DEFICIENCIES.

The Unprotected Condition of Our Great Seaboard and Large Seaports-How New York Harbor Could Be Entered by a Hostile Iron-Clad Fleet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

It is but a short time since I noticed you alluded to the report of the United States Army Engineer to the Secretary of War upon harbor defences, and you congratulated the people that this most impor-tant matter appeared to command their attention, meaning, doubtless, the attention of the officers of he army. Why, that has been the case for years, and would it not be well for you to make it com mand the attention of the legislators at Washingon, so that by our army and navy our great seapoard cities at least may be protected from being laid at the mercy of an active, energetic enemy supply the army with guns and carriages to mount them on, and powder of proper initial velocity to drive the shot effectually to do its work upon the enemy. Give the navy some ships to do their work, repair the iron-clads at League Island that can be repaired, have a system of torpedoes for of fensive and defensive operation. I wish now to state that the vast improvements in the modern foreign navies give us no timely warning, for they are all ready, and we shall awake to the fact some day (God grant it may be soon) tors, harbor defences and the wonderful destruc-tive torpedo. Already have we too long acted upon the supposition that we are well prepared and may not a continuation of this blind policy cause some of our beautiful seaboard cities to fall an easy prey to their iron-clad fleets whenever they may see fit to hurl them upon us? I will imagine a case and at this time it is not at all an improbable one. Imagine war with England and their iron-clad Channel fleet, combined with their iron-clad Medi-

terranean fleet, with their wooden war and trans port fleet, ordered to proceed to and force an entrance into the port of New York. We will suppose we have thirty or sixty days' notice, which would be a long notice. It may well be asked, How will we meet them? Possibly some enthusiast may answer. By our iron-clad vessels: the local forts and torpedoes planted about the harbor! Let us see what we have ready and can get ready to meet this neet of the English, consisting of seventeen ponderous iron-clads, backed with thirty-six wooden war steamers, mounting from twelve to eighty guns each, with a transport feet of fifty steamers. They will all readily steam across the ocean from the English Channel and Gibraltar in twenty days, and appear off the harbor of New York. Well, we are duly notified and we send thousands of men to the fort at Sandy Hook, which is without a gun; also we send men to the works on Staten Island; we work earnestly at Forts Hamilton and Lafayette. We next place in commission our available from fort at Sandy Hook, which is without a gun; also we send men to the works on Staten Island; we work earnestly at Forts Hamilton and Lafayette. We next place in commission our available iron-clads. Let us see what we have. The Roanoke is at New York with six guns; she is an old wooden frigate plated with four inches of iron. We hurry out the Dictator from New London with her 15-inch guns; we order up the Saugus from Philadelphia or Fortress Monroe, with her two 15-inch guns. These two last are the best we have, for, if rightly informed by the Secretary of the Navy's report, all the wooden iron-clads have decayed beyond repair, and only some five or six of the iron ones are considered fit for repair by giving them iron beams and decks, and this is yet to be done, and will take some months. The monitor Puritan may possibly be got ready. We now call in all our West India Squadron and commission all the available wooden steamers, and at the very most we get together a squadron of fifteen wooden vessels and four iron-clads, three of which are monitors. The army and navy jointly piant the Lower Bay and Narrows with all the torpedoes that can be made, and each and every ship carries a supply of torpedoes.

The English fleet comes along in (say) sixty days; our forts have been placed in the very best of condition the time will admit of and the fleet as aluded to above are at anchor in the Lower Bay. We will suppose a demand is made for surrender and refused, and with usual Yankee pluck the Dictator, Roanoke, Saugus and Puritan go outside of Sandy Hook and engage the enemy's best iron-clad. Of course the fire of the Yankee's iron-clad guns of fifteen-inch calibre must and will have telling effect at first; an English iron-clad or two would be disabled; but when the impinging fire of such guns as they could bring to bear upon the decks of our vessels were felt, the monitor's decks would be smashed in like erg shells, and the monitor soon disabled. Again, we will suppose the enemy, with their superior speed of ten to twelv

So much for our monitor defences of New York. So much for our monitor defences of New York, The English Admiral orders an advance into the harbor; he has now, we will suppose, eleven or tweive iron-clads in order; his wooden war steamers and transports are still uninjured; his wooden steamers he wilf order to pass the Bar, and they must take the chances of the first planted torpedoes—indeed, he expects to lose say six of them. suppose they are permitted to pass uninjured and the torpedoes held for the iron-clads, that soon follow. The wooden fleet engage the Yankee fleet in the Lower Bay inside Sandy Heok, both fighting with torpedoes as well as their batteries. Soon Suppose they are permitted to pass uninjured and the torpedoes heid for the iron-clads, that soon follow. The wooden feet engage the Yankee feet in the Lower Bay inside Sandy Hook, both fighting with torpedoes as well as their batteries. Soon they are grappling ship for ship, and they mutually sink and are destroved, say side by side. Down they go together. The English iron-clad fleet has been advancing in line to pass the bar at Sandy Hook. They hardly pay any attention to the unprepared fort there. Their leading ship is sank by a torpedo, the same as our monitor was at Mobile; but on go the others by the main ship channel, perhaps with another iron-clad suak near Sandy Hook Point or Southwest Spit buoy, or disabled by a lucky shot from some fifteen or twenty inch gun, and they steam through the destroyed wooden feet in the Lower Bay, and up channel, nine in all, they go for the Narrows. Here the iron-clads iear naught from the forts save the chance fifteen or twenty inch shot that can be fired. The snot from the other guns mounted there cannot penetrate them. Torpedoes, of course, may sink one or more, but on they go, seven in all, up past the forts at Bedioe's Island and Governor's Island. Again they take the chances of torpedoes and the occasional fifteen or twenty inch shot, but on they go, and, rushing past, they turn into the North and Enst rivers and lay contribution upon rich and beautiful New York.

The attempt to enter the strongest front to New York has been supposed, then, how much leasier will it be to come by the way of Long Island Sound, past Fort Schuyler and thence through the Gate (thus avoiding Sandy Hook fort, Staten Island, Fert Hamilton, Lafayette, Bedioe's Island, Governor's Island and Ellis Island)? I have supposed no impossible result, prepared as we are new, and I write in no spirit of detraction, but with the earnest wish that we may be awakened to proper preparation and not be without a perfect torpedo system for both army and navy. Good, substantial forts, properly armed with heavy

SUPERINTENDENT MACGREGOR AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

In your issue of the 13th inst. appeared a com munication, signed "A Fireman of the Present De partment," the writer of which takes exception to some of the views advanced by me in the conversation had with your reporter regarding the recent are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

In justice to myself I think it but proper to state that the report of the interview was inaccurate in one particular, in making me say that the fire in one particular, in making me say that the fire in question could never have attained the headway it did had the old Fire Department been in existence. I did assert, however, and still claim that the old volunteers put out more fires on still alarms than the present force. That circumstance I attributed not to the superior energy of the volunteer, but to the inadequacy in point of number of men and apparatus of the paid department. It is no discredit to even the best of men that they cannot perform impossibilities. I yield to no one in admiration of the zeal and discipline that characterize the present force; indeed, any reflection upon it would come with but a bad grace from me, who from the moment the project was mooted was an earnest advocate for the establishment of a paid department. I think, however, that the force, in point of numbers, is utterly inadequate to the wants of this metropoils, and have only to hope that a calamity similar to that which visited Chicago and Boston may not demonstrate the justness of my opinion and the delusive character of the economy by which the chief inancial officer of the city government seeks to establish his reputation as a reformer at the expense of his fellow citizens.

In regard to the Grand Central Hotel, which he describes as a man-trap, it was built in accordance with the laws in force at the time of its erection. If he would refer to my report for the year in which the Grand Central was rebuilt he whi find that I strongly condemned the erection of Mansard roofs built as above.

So far as regards the personal all usions to myself in this delectable production, I fatter myself I can afford to treat them with contempt. Yours respectfully. question could never have attained the headway

TENNISON NO BIGAMIST.

The Sympathics of Poughkeepsie People with the Imprisoned Tennison.

NO CASE AGAINST HIM.

Perry Mapes, the Father of Mrs. Tennis son, Anxious to Retire from the Prosecution.

Henry P. Tennison, of Rock Hall, County Kil-

kenny, Ireland, grandson of James de la Poer Porter, one of the richest and most influential with the Marquis of Waterford or Beresford family. still languishes in a Poughkeepsie dungeon, tion of one Mapes, of Poughkeepsie, a retired steward of a North River steamboat and the father of the young lady whom Mr. Henry P. Tennison made the happy partner of his affections and Rock Hall, county Kilkenny. Some four or five weeks ago, when the staid

and respectable inhabitants of Poughkeepsievilearned that one of their daughters had eloped and married a man who had another wife living in Detroit, they rejoiced over the capture of the heartless betrayer of youth and beauty, and thirsted eagerly for his Judge J. Barnard and he has since been indicted

During the past ten days the tide of popular feeling has taken a most decided turn in Poughkeepsie, as from certain matters that have come to light, the public are under the impression that Tennison is wrongfully imprisoned and that there were no Detroit that was produced against him proved such a complete failure that he was immediately sent back without having proved anything. The prosecuting parties are, it is said, in rather a dilemma, as they do not know how to support the charges they have made against Tennison. In fact, it appears they would be glad to get rid of him quietly, as over-tures have been made to him to let him out and pay all expenses provided he would leave the neighborhood. Tennison, however, means to fight it out, and make them prove the assertions by which they have endeavored to rum his reputation

it out, and make them prove the assertions by which they have endeavored to rum his reputation. Court is now sitting at Poughkeepsie, and Tennison is anxious to have his case called up; but the prosecuting parties do not appear to be the least anxious to bring it to trial.

A Herald representative paid a visit to Mr. Tennison recently and found the proprietor of Rock Hall, county Kilkenny, seated upon an Iron bedstead, which appeared rather destitute of clothing. He did not appear very despondent, and gave the following sketch of his career:

I started from Liverpool in 1800, and came over to New York with letters to Richardson & Co., of that city. I had been brought up in the wholesale produce business. Stopped a short time in New York and then went to St. Louis, where I presented some letters of introduction I had received from Richardson & Co., of New York. After walting three months I obtained goods of two large stores, belonging to Jecks & Co. While in St. Louis I became acquainted with a gentleman and his sister. The gentleman was a very dear friend, and at his death he confided his sister to my care. I gave her the use of my name, and we were known as Mr. and Mrs. Tennison, although we never wore married. She was sixty-live years of age, and show the product was under the name of Tennison & Hunter. We had a busine the war, when I went to Toronto and we month after the war, when I went to Toronto and we month after the war, when I went to Toronto and we have sunder the name of Tennison & Hunter. We had a busine the war, when I went to Toronto and we have with a gentleman was sixty-live years of age, and show the safety of the stores in the wholesale clothing business was wholesale and retail clothing. Sold out of the firm last wards from ill-health and went to Detroit. While there was engaged with C. R. Maby for three weeks god a day, but hearing some bad reports about him from some Canada friends I resigned my position. Took a block of buildings on Michigan evenue, intending to occupy three of the stores

Before leaving Poughkeepsie the Herald representative received the following communications from Mr. Tennison, which is printed verbatim:—

from Mr. Tennison, which is printed verbatim:—

To Herald Correspondent:—

My grandiather (fennison's) was James De la Poer,
Porter, one of the largest and richest commoners in the
south of freland, connected with the Marquis
of Waterford or Bereaford's family: but, like
other Irish gents of the olden time, wentthrough £10,000 per annum inside of ten years.
Waterford people still recollect this coach and four grays
going to Tramore races. His property was in countles of
Kilkenny and Waterford, Ireland.
Every Kilkenny man knows who Thomas Tennison, of
Rock Hall, hence their devotion to me here when I
looked deserted. After Carrick Shock battle, which occurred at Tennison lodge gate, or, rather, within five
hundred yards of it, a foster-brother of Tennison's father
was arrested wrongfully, named Zak Ryan, of Conderstown, and those informers who were paid to swear away
town, and those informers who were paid to swear away
the man's lite, was innocent as his father, showed most

goes, Flood of Flood Hail, and noble Counsellos Tom Tennison, &c.

Tennison was introduced in Detroit by Canada's, merchant prince, a man who has no superior living—the Hon. John McMurrick, of Toronto—and has several letters, among others from one of the most respectable there—Morat Brother—stating how they regretted Mr. Tennison had been obliged to sell and retire owing to ill-health, and that their house alone sold his late firm from thirty-five to fifty thousand dollars per annum. Mr. Tennison is for six years a subscriber in Detroit to the universally known mercantile agency of McKellup, Tapman & Co., and McKellup, Sprague & Co., of New York. Those gentlemen will, he is sure, see as far as regards his statements of a business nature, confirm them. He takes this opportunity of thanking the New York house for their kindness when his character was so grossly asperaed, without having communicated with them, as he felt a prison was not the place to addness from. For pedigree of Tannison's family see Sir Bernard Burke's "Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland."

Poughkeepsie people have now given all their sympathies to the caged Tennison, although they

Ireland."

Poughkeepsle people have now given all their sympathies to the caged Tennison, although they credit him with being slightly touched in his head. McGrady, of the Forbes House, still continues to send him his meals, and the officials do everything in their power to make his confinement as pleasant as possible.

POLITICS IN HUNGARY. (From the London Post, Nov. 7.]

The new Hungarian Premier, M. Szlavy, has aceded to his new dignity amid enthusiastic demonstrations of sympathy from both sides, the Deakists as well as the Left, whose organ, Ellenör, specially welcomes him to his new post. Still public opinion in Hungary and Austria doubts the stability of his tenure of office, and public organs openly express their misgivings. But for Deak's openly express their misgivings. But for Deak's unequivocal expression that "while he lives Szlavy shall not rise to the Premiership," the speedy succession of a conservative Cabinet under that statesman would be accepted as an inevitable fact. M. Szlavy has already received the sobriquet of "Cittzen Minister" from the Hungarian Parliament, not on account of his extraction—which is noble—but of his unpresuming, almost bashful appearance and the close resemblance of his present condition to that of the hapless "cittzen Ministry" Giskra-Herbst in cis-Leithania, whose example is considered no promising omen. M. Szlavy was born in 1819, being the son of a military surgeon stationed in Presburg. His education has been entirely German, and in his appearance the Prime Minister is far more German than Magyar. He was educated at the Theresianum, at Vienna, and subsequently threaded his way through the administrative service without éclat till about ten years ago, when he was appointed Governor (Obergespan) of a district in Hungary. On the formation of the Hungariam Cabinet (Andrassy) he was raised to an under secretaryship in the Home office, and a few years later, on M. Girovi's removal to the Ministry of Communications, he succeeded that statesman in the office he has but just exchanged for still aigher, dignity—namely, the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture. His chief recommendation, as compared with his retiring predecessor, is his unpared with his retiring predecessor, is unequivocal expression that "while he lives

fortable living at the expense of the Cunard, Hamburg and Bremen steamship companies, made another descent at an early hour yesterday morning other descent at an early noar yesterday morning on four cases of valuables which were piled on one of Anderson's trucks, on the Bremen dock. One of the cases contained flustrated papers, and the others large quantities of silk and cotton materials, valued at about \$15,000. The strange phases of the robbery is that it was perpetrated under the eyes of several vigilant (?) watchmen. Officer Hayes, of the police force, and Chief Donovan are on the track of the invisible burstars.